GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3513
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2015
Exclusion of Areca Nut from Negative List of Items
Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

a) the details of the commodities included in the negative list of items in various bilateral trade agreements signed by India with other countries;
b) whether the Government has received any representation seeking exclusion of Areca nut in the future bilateral trade agreements of the country; and
c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)
(a) The list of all items, including commodities in the negative list of bilateral trade agreements is available in public domain at http://commerce.nic.in/MOC/international_trade_agreements.asp

(b)&(c) The government has received representations from stakeholders such as "The Totgars' Co-operative Sale Society Limited" and "The Campco Limited" to place areca nut under the negative list of bilateral and regional trade agreements such as India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement (ISLFTA), South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), India-ASEAN and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) treaty renewals in 2015. The representations have been duly considered with the government taking up the issue of stricter enforcement of rules of origin under these agreements. The Minimum Import Price of Areca nut has also been enhanced from Rs.110 per kilogram to Rs.162 per kilogram through the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) Notification No. 10 dated 8.6.2015.
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